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C O N F I D E N T I A L 131146Z AUG 82 STAFF

CITE FBIS/NICOSIA 44586

TO: FBIS.

RYBAT

REF: FBIS 14154

SUBJECT: FSN CLASSIFICATION

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1. STATE TELEGRAM 208079 DATED 27 JULY NOTIFIES NICOSIA, VIENNA AND LONDON THAT FBIS HAS WITHDRAWN FROM THE INTERAGENCY FSN CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM. THE MESSAGE ASKS THE MISSIONS TO DESCRIBE THE TYPE OF FSN PERSONNEL SERVICES THEY PROVIDE FBIS AND REQUESTS COMMENTS ON OUR WITHDRAWAL.

2. AMBASSADOR EWING'S REPLY PREPARED BY THE ADMIN OFFICER SAYS THE WITHDRAWAL CREATES A POTENTIAL FOR MORALE PROBLEMS, "PARTICULARLY AMONG FSN STAFF WHO MAY BE EMPLOYED IN SIMILAR PROFESSIONAL CAPACITIES," AND IT "MAY HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON FSN EMPLOYEE/ MANAGEMENT RELATIONS." HE GOES ON TO SAY THAT, DESPITE FBIS' GOING IT ALONE, THE MISSION WILL CONTINUE TO EMPHASIZE "EQUAL TREATMENT OF ALL PERSONNEL" EXCEPT WHERE REGULATIONS DIFFER.

3. IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT THE EMBASSY IS NOT OVERLY CONCERNED. THEY TOO ARE DISPLEASED WITH STATE'S CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM AND FEEL THAT OUR OPTING OUT WILL MAKE IT TOUGHER FOR THEM TO ANSWER TO THEIR OWN FOREIGN NATIONAL EMPLOYEES. HOWEVER, THE ADMIN OFFICER HAS GIVEN ME TO BELIEVE THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE MISSION WILL DO MORE THAN MILDLY PROTEST OUR ACTION. DECL OADR ALL
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